

## **Appendix B**

### **First Advance Notification Package and Responses**



## Florida Department of Transportation

**JEB BUSH**  
GOVERNOR

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - DISTRICT 4  
3400 West Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421  
Telephone (954) 777-4601 Fax (954) 777-4671  
Toll Free Number: 1-866-336-8435

**JOSÉ ABREU**  
SECRETARY

July 8, 2003

Ms. Lynn Griffin  
Coastal Programs Administrator  
Office of Federal Coastal Programs  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Ms. Griffin:

Subject: Advance Notification  
Project Development and Environment Study  
Third East-West River Crossing  
Financial Project Number: 410844-1-52-1  
Federal Aid Project Number: 7777 087 A  
County: St. Lucie

The City of Port St. Lucie is conducting a Project Development and Environment Study through a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement.

The attached Advance Notification Package is forwarded to your office for processing through appropriate State agencies in accordance with Executive Order 95-359. Distribution to local and Federal agencies is being made as noted.

Although more specific comments will be solicited during the permit coordination process, we request that permitting and permit reviewing agencies review the attached information and furnish us with whatever general comments they consider pertinent at this time.

This is a Federal-aid action and the Florida Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration, will determine what degree of environmental documentation will be necessary. The determination will be based upon in-house environmental evaluations and comments received through coordination with other agencies. Please provide a consistency review for this project in accordance with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

In addition, please review this improvement's consistency, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved Comprehensive Plan of the local government jurisdiction(s) pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments on the project within 45 days. Should additional review time be required, a written request for an extension of time must be submitted to our office within the initial 45-day comment period.

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2003

OIP/OLGA

[www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us)



Your comments should be addressed to:

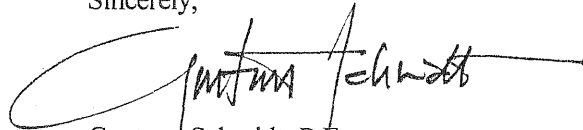
Mr. Walter England, P.E., City Engineer  
Project Manager  
City of Port St. Lucie  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Also please forward a copy of all comments to:

Mr. Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.  
Planning and Environmental Management  
Florida Department of Transportation  
3400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Your expeditious handling of this notice will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.  
District Planning & Environmental Engineer

Attachments:

Mailing list  
Location Map  
Advance Notification Fact Sheet  
Federal Assistance Multipurpose Fact Sheet

## Mailing List

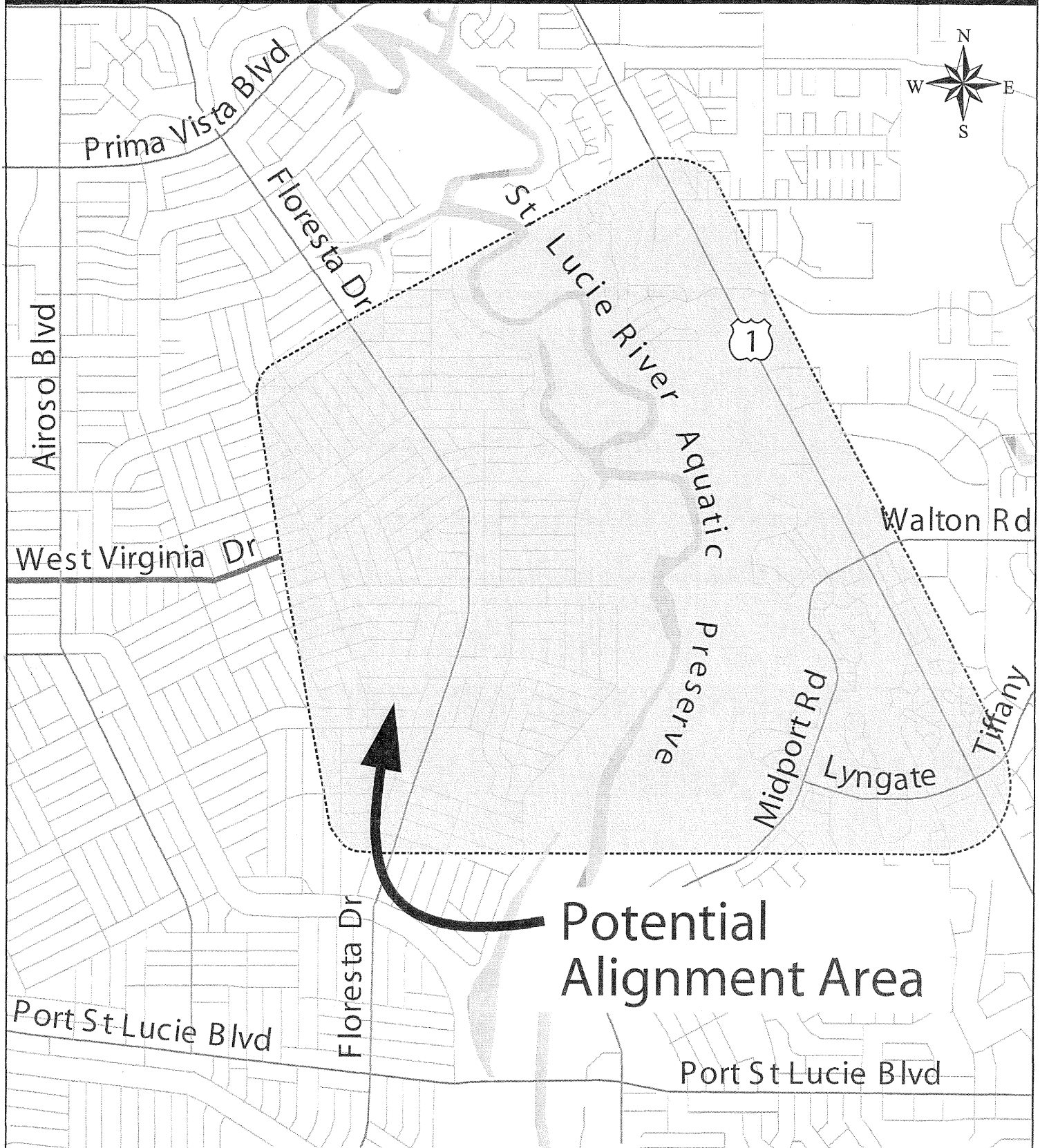
Federal Highway Administration, Division Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration-Airports District Office  
Federal Railroad Administration-Office of Economic Analysis (RRP-32)  
Federal Transit Administration-Region IV-United States Department of Transportation  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Regional Director, Region IV  
U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office-Director  
U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Land Management-Jackson Field Office  
U.S. Department of Interior – U.S. Geological Survey-Chief  
U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs-National Park Service-Southeast Regional Office  
U.S. Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Trust Responsibilities  
U.S. Department of Interior- National Park Service-Southeast Regional Office  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IV, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Water Management Division, Region IV  
U.S. Department of Interior – Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Supervisor, South Florida Field Office  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Regulatory Branch, District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-South Permit Branch Office  
U.S. Department of Commerce – National Marine Fisheries Service –Southeast Regional Office  
U.S. Department of Commerce – National Marine Fisheries Service-SEFSC, Panama City Field Office  
U.S. Department of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Administrator  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services –Director  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Regional Environmental Officer  
U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Services  
U.S. Coast Guard – Commander – Seventh District  
U.S Senator-Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senator-Bob Graham  
U.S Representative-District 16-Mark Foley  
U.S Representative-District 22-E. Clay Shaw, Jr.  
U.S Representative-District 23-Alcee Hastings  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama-Chairman  
Muskogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma-Principal Chief  
Seminole Tribe of Florida-Chairman  
Micosoukee Tribe of Indians of Florida-Chairman  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma-Principal Chief  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission –South Region-Regional Director  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-Office of Environmental Services  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Office of Federal Coastal Programs  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Division of State Lands-Director  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Southeast District Office-District Director  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Land and Recreation Department  
Florida Department of State, State Historical Preservation-Bureau Chief  
Florida Marine Fisheries Commission-Acting Director  
Florida Transportation Commission-Chairman  
Florida State Representative-State Congressional District 78-Richard Machek  
Florida State Representative-State Congressional District 80-Stan Mayfield  
Florida State Representative-State Congressional District 81-Gayle Harrel

## Mailing List (Continued)

Florida State Representative-State Congressional District 82-Joe Negron  
Florida State Senate-District 28-Ken Pruitt  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
Sierra Club-South Florida Regional Office  
St. Lucie Audubon Society  
Audubon Society of Florida  
South Florida Water Management District-Executive Director  
City of Port St. Lucie-Public Works Department  
School Board of St. Lucie County-Superintendent  
School Board of St. Lucie County-Vice-Chairman  
School Board of St. Lucie County-School Board Member  
City of Port St. Lucie Mayor- Robert Minsky  
City of Port St City Manager: Donald Cooper  
City of Port St City Clerk- Karen Phillips  
St. Lucie County Commissioner, District 1- John D. Bruhn  
St. Lucie County Commissioner, District 2- Doug Coward  
St. Lucie County Commissioner, District 3- Paula A. Lewis  
St. Lucie County Commissioner, District 4- Frannie Hutchinson  
St. Lucie County Commissioner, District 5- Cliff Barnes  
City of Port St. Lucie Councilman, District 1-Patricia Christiansen  
City of Port St. Lucie Councilman, District 2-Jim Anderson  
City of Port St. Lucie Councilman, District 3-Christopher Cooper  
City of Port St. Lucie Councilman, District 4-Jack Kelly  
City of Port St. Lucie-City Engineer  
City of Port St. Lucie-Assistant City Engineer  
City of Port St. Lucie-Planning Department-Director  
City of Port St. Lucie Police Department-Police Chief  
City of Port St. Lucie Vice-Mayor-Patricia Christiansen  
St. Lucie County Administrator  
St. Lucie County Engineering Division-County Engineer  
St. Lucie County Planning Division-Planning Manager  
St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Division-Manager  
St. Lucie County Community Development-Director  
St. Lucie County MPO-Planning Division  
St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce-President  
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department  
St. Lucie County Fire District-Fire Chief  
Florida Department of Transportation District IV-District Planning and Environmental Engineer  
Florida Department of Transportation-Environmental Management Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service-Field office  
Port St. Lucie Fire Station 3  
Port St. Lucie Fire Station 5  
Fire Station 10  
Fire Station 12  
Fire Station 13

# Third East-West River Crossing PD&E Study

## PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Financial Project Number: 410844-1-52-1  
Federal Aid Number: 7777 087 A  
County: St. Lucie

Figure 1

**STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET**

**1. Need for Project:**

The City of Port St. Lucie has developed very rapidly during the past few years, putting a great deal of transportation demand on the existing east-west corridors of Port St. Lucie Boulevard and Prima Vista Boulevard. Improvements have been made to Port St. Lucie Boulevard to alleviate transportation pressures and improvements are scheduled for Prima Vista Boulevard. Despite these efforts, the population continues to grow resulting in even greater transportation demands. The subject improvements are needed to further accommodate existing and future travel demands. The City of Port St. Lucie's Transportation Element of the adopted Comprehensive Development Plan provides an analysis of future transportation system needs and cites that the original design of the city street system lacked adequate arterials including major east-west corridors and bridges crossing the river. Further compounding the need for such corridors, population growth will continue due to the amount of vested platted residential lots. In addition, the proposed improvements would provide an additional east-west emergency evacuation route, which would improve safety conditions for coastal residents.

The Project is consistent with the St. Lucie Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), as adopted March 1, 2001, and per Resolution No. 98-06, dated and adopted December 3, 1998. Additionally, the improvement is included in the MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), per Resolution No. 98-06, dated and adopted December 3, 1998. This project is consistent with the City of Port St. Lucie Comprehensive Plan, as required under Chapter 163, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and with the tentative Work Program, pursuant to Section 333.135 (4) (f), F.S.

**2. Description of the Project:**

The City of Port St. Lucie is conducting a series of studies to develop a third east-west transportation corridor within the City. This advance notification is in reference to the easternmost of the corridor, the Third East-West River Crossing Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. The PD&E study will evaluate the need for a third east-west river crossing over the North Fork of the St. Lucie River to connect to the proposed West Virginia Corridor. The proposed improvements include a new six-lane bridge crossing the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and its nearby tributaries, and a corridor wide enough to accommodate an eventual six-lane cross section both east and west of the bridge. The initial improvements will be a four-lane cross section.

The study area is bounded by:

- US 1 to the **east** connecting to Walton Road, Village Green Drive, Tiffany Avenue, or approximately 0.25 mile south of the intersection of Business Park Drive and US 1;
- Thornhill Drive to the **south**;
- Fallon Drive to the **north**; and

Manth Drive to the **west** where the corridor will tie into the West Virginia Avenue corridor.

3. Environmental Information:

- a. Land Uses: Existing land use in the project area west of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River is predominately single family residential. With the exception of the conservation areas adjacent to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, all private property west of the river directly affected by the project consists of improved and unimproved residential lots. Existing land use in the project area east of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River is predominately commercial and multi-family residential along the US 1 corridor.
- b. Wetlands: The project area contains mangrove wetlands, estuarine and riverine habitats within the North Fork of the St. Lucie River with scattered palustrine habitat throughout the remainder of the corridor. Potential impacts to Wetlands will be evaluated and assessed and a wetland evaluation report will be prepared.
- c. Floodplains: The North Fork of the St. Lucie River is located within the 100-year floodplain as identified on National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) 12111C0290 and 12111C0275 F. Potential impacts will be evaluated as set forth in Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and 23 CFR 650, and will be coordinated with the appropriate regulatory agencies.
- d. Wildlife and Habitat: A list of potentially occurring threatened and endangered species in St. Lucie County is attached (Appendix A). Coordination with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be conducted during the PD&E Study. Based on information provided by the regulatory agencies, protected species surveys will be conducted, if required. Specific field surveys for protected species that potentially occur within the study area will be conducted according to established survey protocols and guidance provided by the regulatory agencies. Potential impacts to wildlife and protected species will be assessed and appropriate mitigation and minimization measures will be developed. Preliminary site review indicates that no critical habitat necessary to the survival of any listed species occurs within the proposed project. However, at the southern end of the project area is the Cow Pen Slough, which is a Manatee Protection Zone. A documented eagle's nest is located at the northern terminus of the study area, outside of the project corridor.
- e. Outstanding Florida Waters: The North Fork of the St. Lucie River was designated as Outstanding Florida Waters according to Chapter 62-302.700(9), F.A.C.
- f. Aquatic Preserves: The North Fork of the St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve was adopted under Florida Statutes Sections 258.35 – 258.46 on May 22, 1984. The preserve is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas. The preserve is listed in the Aquatic Preserve Rule, Chapters 18-20, F.A.C.



- g. Coastal Zone Consistency Determination is Required: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Section 380.23(3)(C), F.S.
- h. Cultural Resources: St. Lucie County contains the North Fork St. Lucie River State Buffer Preserve Halpatiokee Canoe and Nature Trail. The eastern portion of the proposed project will likely pass through the northern portion of this preserve. No significant cultural or historical sites were identified in this project area during the preliminary study. A Cultural Resource Assessment Survey with complete agency coordination will be conducted for this project.
- i. Coastal Barrier Resources: The project is not located within, or in the vicinity of a coastal barrier resource as defined by the Governor's Executive Order 81-105 and the Federal Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA).
- j. Contamination: Based on field reconnaissance, contamination involvement is anticipated to be minimal. A Contamination Screening Evaluation will be performed in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 22 of the FDOT's PD&E Manual.
- k. Sole Source Aquifer: The project is not located within a sole source aquifer.
- k. Noise: A detailed noise study in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 17 of the FDOT's PD&E Manual will be prepared to determine if impacts to adjacent noise sensitive properties will occur.
- m. Other Comments: None

4. Navigable Waterway Crossing? ☒ Yes ☐ No

5. List Permits Required: It is anticipated that the following permits will be required:

US Coast Guard

US Army Corps of Engineers Dredge and Fill Permit

Environmental Resource Permit (ERP)-South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

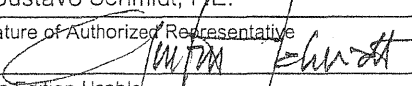
**Appendix A. List of threatened species, endangered species, or species of special concern, which might occur in the project area.**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Agency	Classification
Florida scrub jay	<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	EPA	T
Audubon's crested caracara	<i>Polyborus plancus audubonii</i>	EPA	T
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	EPA	T
Fragrant prickly-apple	<i>Cereus eriophorus</i> var. <i>fragrans</i>	EPA	E
Lakela's mint	<i>Dicerandra immaculate</i>	EPA	E
Eastern indigo snake	<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	EPA	T
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	EPA	T
Johnson's seagrass	<i>Halophila johnsonii</i>	EPA	T
Southeastern beach mouse	<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>	EPA	T
Everglades snail kite	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	EPA	E
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	EPA	E
Red-cockaded woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	FWS	E
Wood stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	FWS	E
American alligator	<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	FWS	SA
Green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	FWS	E
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	FWS	E
Loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	FWS	T
Four-petal pawpaw	<i>Asimina tetramera</i>	FWS	E
Tiny polygala	<i>Polygala smallii</i>	FWS	E
River goby	<i>Awaous tajasica</i>	FNAI	S1S2
Common snook	<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>	FDEP	SSC
Bigmouth sleeper	<i>Gobiomorus dormitory</i>	FWC	UR
Slashcheek goby	<i>Gobionellus pseudofasciatus</i>	FWC	UR
Opossum pipefish	<i>Microphus brachyurus lineatus</i>	FWC	UR
Southern ringneck snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	FWC	T
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	FDEP	SSC
Little blue heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	FDEP	SSC
Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	FDEP	SSC
Tricolored heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	FDEP	SSC
Arctic peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	FDEP	E
Southeastern American kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	FDEP	T
Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	FDEP	SSC
West Indian Manatee critical habitat		FWS	
Everglades Snail Kite critical habitat		FWS	

(T) = threatened, (E) = endangered, (SA) = similarity of appearance, (S1S2) = critically imperiled/imperiled statewide because of rarity, (SSC) = species of special concern, (UR) = under review (state)

# APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

OMB Approval No. 0348-0043

		2. DATE SUBMITTED July 8, 2003	Applicant Identifier 410844-1-52-1
1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION: Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction Preapplication <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Construction	3. DATE RECEIVED BY STATE		State Application Identifier
	4. DATE RECEIVED BY FEDERAL AGENCY		Federal Identifier
5. APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Legal Name: Florida Department of Transportation		Organizational Unit: Office of Design	
Address (give city, county, State, and zip code):  605 Suwannee Street - Tallahassee - Leon - Florida - 32399-0450		Name and telephone number of person to be contacted on matters involving this application (give area code) (954) 777-4629 Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.	
6. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (EIN): 59 - 6001874		7. TYPE OF APPLICANT: (enter appropriate letter in box) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	
8. TYPE OF APPLICATION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision If Revision, enter appropriate letter(s) in box(es) <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></span> A. Increase Award B. Decrease Award C. Increase Duration D. Decrease Duration Other(specify): _____		A. State H. Independent School Dist. B. County I. State Controlled Institution of Higher Learning C. Municipal J. Private University D. Township K. Indian Tribe E. Interstate L. Individual F. Intermunicipal M. Profit Organization G. Special District N. Other (Specify) _____	
10. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE NUMBER: Highway Planning and Construction 20 - 205 TITLE: _____		9. NAME OF FEDERAL AGENCY: US Department of Transportation	
12. AREAS AFFECTED BY PROJECT (Cities, Counties, States, etc.): St. Lucie County, Florida		11. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT:  Financial Project Number 410844-1-52-1	
13. PROPOSED PROJECT		14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF: 16	
Start Date 3/3/03	Ending Date 9/9/05	a. Applicant	b. Project
15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:		16. IS APPLICATION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?	
a. Federal	\$ 37,000,000.00	a. YES. THIS PREAPPLICATION/APPLICATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS FOR REVIEW ON:  DATE July 8, 2003  b. No. <input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM IS NOT COVERED BY E. O. 12372 <input type="checkbox"/> OR PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED BY STATE FOR REVIEW	
b. Applicant	\$ .00		
c. State	\$ .00		
d. Local N/A	\$ .00		
e. Other N/A	\$ .00		
f. Program Income N/A	\$ .00		
g. TOTAL	\$ 37,000,000.00	17. IS THE APPLICANT DELINQUENT ON ANY FEDERAL DEBT? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," attach an explanation. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
18. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION/PREAPPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED ASSURANCES IF THE ASSISTANCE IS AWARDED.			
a. Type Name of Authorized Representative Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.		b. Title	c. Telephone Number (954) 777-4629
d. Signature of Authorized Representative 		e. Date Signed 7/10/03	

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Standard Form 424 (Rev. 7-97)  
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

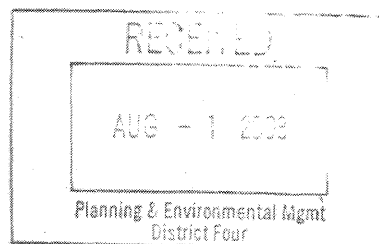


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUL 28 2003

Mr. Walter England, P.E., City Engineer  
Project Manager  
City of Port St. Lucie  
Port St. Lucie, FL 33984



SUBJECT: Advance Notification  
Project Development and Environment Study  
Third East-West River Crossing  
Financial Project Number: 410844-1-52-1  
Federal Aid Project Number: 7777 087 A  
County: St. Lucie

Dear Mr. England:

This letter provides comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, regarding the above referenced Advance Notification. The Advanced Notification states under section 3 "Environmental Information" that the project area contains mangrove wetlands, estuarine and riverine habitats within the North Fork of the St. Lucie River with scattered palustrine habitat throughout the remainder of the corridor. The southern end of the project area is the Cow Pen Slough, which is a Manatee Protection Zone. The North Fork of the St. Lucie River is designated an Outstanding Florida Water and is part of the St. Lucie Aquatic Preserve.

EPA is concerned that this project has the potential to degrade important aquatic resources. A detailed alternatives analysis will need to be performed in order for the EPA to evaluate the Third East-West River Crossing project pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. This alternatives analysis should cover not only potential river crossing locations, but also alternative transportation structures (e.g., widening of existing bridges) and/or methods (e.g., mass transit by bus or rail). We believe there are less environmentally damaging alternatives than construction of a third bridge across an aquatic preserve.

According to the CWA Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines and February 6, 1990 Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and EPA in Determining Mitigation, an applicant must demonstrate avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts before compensatory mitigation can be considered. Specifically, no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted, if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge that would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem. Practicable alternatives include activities that do not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. EPA requests that a detailed alternatives analysis be performed to justify the construction of a third bridge, before resources are expended to locate potential bridge crossings in an aquatic preserve.

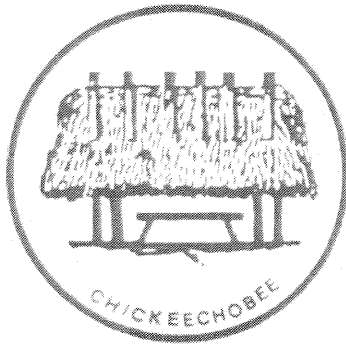
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Advanced Notification for the Project Development and Environment Study of the Third East-West River Crossing. We look forward to working with you and providing additional comments as plans progress. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have a member of your staff contact EPA representative Eric Nelson, 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 120, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, [561-616-8824]; or by email at [nelson.ericb@epa.gov](mailto:nelson.ericb@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Mikulak, Chief  
Wetlands Regulatory Section  
Water Management Division

cc: Mr. Gustavo Schmidt, P.E., FDOT



# Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

COPIED: *file*

JUL 31 2003

CITY OF PSL  
ENGINEERING

Business Council Members  
Billy Cypress, Chairman

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman  
Max Billie, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary  
Jerry Cypress, Lawmaker

July 28, 2003

Mr. Walter England, P.E. City Engineer  
Project Manager  
City of Port St. Lucie  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

RE: Third East-West Crossing: Financial Project No.: 410844-1-52-1  
Federal Aid Project No.: 7777 087 A

Dear Mr. England:

The Miccosukee Tribe received your letters concerning the above referenced proposed project. The Tribal Chairman referred your letter to me as I am the Tribal Representative for Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation and Section 106 Consultation. Mr. Fred Dayhoff is a Tribal Consultant on these matters. Please direct all future correspondence to me.

We have no direct knowledge of any cultural, religious, or traditional sites at the proposed project location. We suggest that a cultural resources survey be conducted of the project area. We further request that we be kept informed of this project and receive a copy of the cultural resources survey.

Thank you for consulting with us. Please call me at (305) 223-8380, Ext. 2244, if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Steve Terry  
NAGPRA & Section 106 Representative

PC: Mr. Gustavo Schmidt, FDOT District VI



August 7, 2003

Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.  
FL Dept of Transportation  
Office of Planning and Environmental  
Management - District 4  
3400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for your request for information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). We have compiled the following information for your project area.

**Project:** Advance Notification PD&E Study, Third East-West River Crossing  
Financial Project Number: 410844-1-52-1  
Federal Aid Project number: 7777 087 A

**Date Received:** July 31, 2003

**Location:** Township 36 S, Range 40 E, Sections 26-28, 33-36  
Township 37 S, Range 40 E, Sections 1-4  
St. Lucie County

#### Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that currently we have several Element Occurrences mapped within the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and table).

The Element Occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates the precision of the element occurrence location, defined as second (within about 300 feet of the point), minute (within about one mile), or general (within about 5 miles). For animals and plants, Element Occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some element occurrences represent historically documented observations that may no longer be extant.

Several of the species and natural communities tracked by the Inventory are considered **data sensitive**. Occurrence records for these elements contain information that we consider sensitive due to collection pressures, extreme rarity, or at the request of the source of the information. The Element Occurrence Record has been labeled "Data Sensitive." We request that you not publish or release specific locality data about these species or communities without consent from the Inventory. If you have any questions concerning this please do not hesitate to call.



Florida Resources  
and Environmental  
Analysis Center

Institute of Science  
and Public Affairs

The Florida State University

*Tracking Florida's Biodiversity*

Gustavo Schmidt

08/06/2003

Page 2

### **Managed Areas**

Portions of the site appear to be located within the North Fork St. Lucie River State Buffer Preserve and the North Fork Saint Lucie River Aquatic Preserve, both managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Coastal & Aquatic Managed Areas.

The Managed Areas data layer shows public and privately managed conservation lands throughout the state. Federal, state, local, and privately managed conservation lands are included.

### **Land Acquisition Projects**

This site appears to be located within the North Fork St. Lucie River Florida Forever BOT Project, which is part of the State of Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands land acquisition program. A description of this project is enclosed. For more information on this Florida Forever Project, contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands.

Florida Forever Board of Trustees (BOT) projects are proposed and acquired through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands. The state has no regulatory authority over these lands until they are purchased.

### **Potential Natural Areas**

Portions of the site appear to be located on or near Potential Natural Areas (PNA). These PNA are priority 3 & 5 and may include the following community types: mesic flatwoods, wet flatwoods or oak scrub.

Potential Natural Areas are lands that appear to be relatively intact areas of natural vegetation based on aerial photography, as determined by FNAI scientists. Please see the enclosed explanation sheet for more information. PNAs are not a regulatory designation; they are intended for conservation planning purposes. The maps show a revised version of the PNAs, based on 1995 land use land cover data from the water management districts.

### **Potential Habitat for Rare Species**

Portions of the site appear to be located on or near Potential Habitat for Rare Species. This potential habitat is associated with a known occurrence in the vicinity of: bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*), tiny polygala (*Polygala smallii*) and large-flowered rosemary (*Conradina grandiflora*).

FNAI Potential Habitat for Rare Species indicates areas, which based on landcover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Potential habitat layers have been developed for approximately 250 of the most rare species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.

Potential Habitat is not a regulatory designation, and should not be confused with "critical habitat", which is an official designation made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information on critical habitats can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, 50 CFR 17.95, which lists all critical habitats that have been designated. The Code of Federal Regulations can be accessed through the following website: [www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html).

The Inventory always recommends that a site-specific survey be conducted to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species. Surveys should be conducted by persons familiar with Florida's flora and fauna. For your convenience, a summary of the elements recorded for St. Lucie County is enclosed.

*Tracking Florida's Biodiversity*



Gustavo Schmidt  
08/06/2003  
Page 3

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore, this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please give me a call at (850) 224-8207. *Lept. 2060*

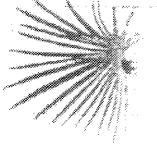
Sincerely,

*Edwin A. Abbey*

Edwin A. Abbey  
Environmental Reviewer

encl

*Tracking Florida's Biodiversity*



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# FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

## Element Occurrences

Precision:  
second natural general

- Animals
- Plants
- Communities
- Other

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Scrub Jay Survey 1992-96

FL Fish & Wildlife Cons. Comm.  
Breeding Bird Atlas Project 1986-91  
center point of 10 sq mi survey block

## Conservation Lands

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Private
- State Aquatic Preserves

## Land Acquisition Projects

- Florida Forever
- Board of Trustees Projects

## Non-Managed Natural Areas

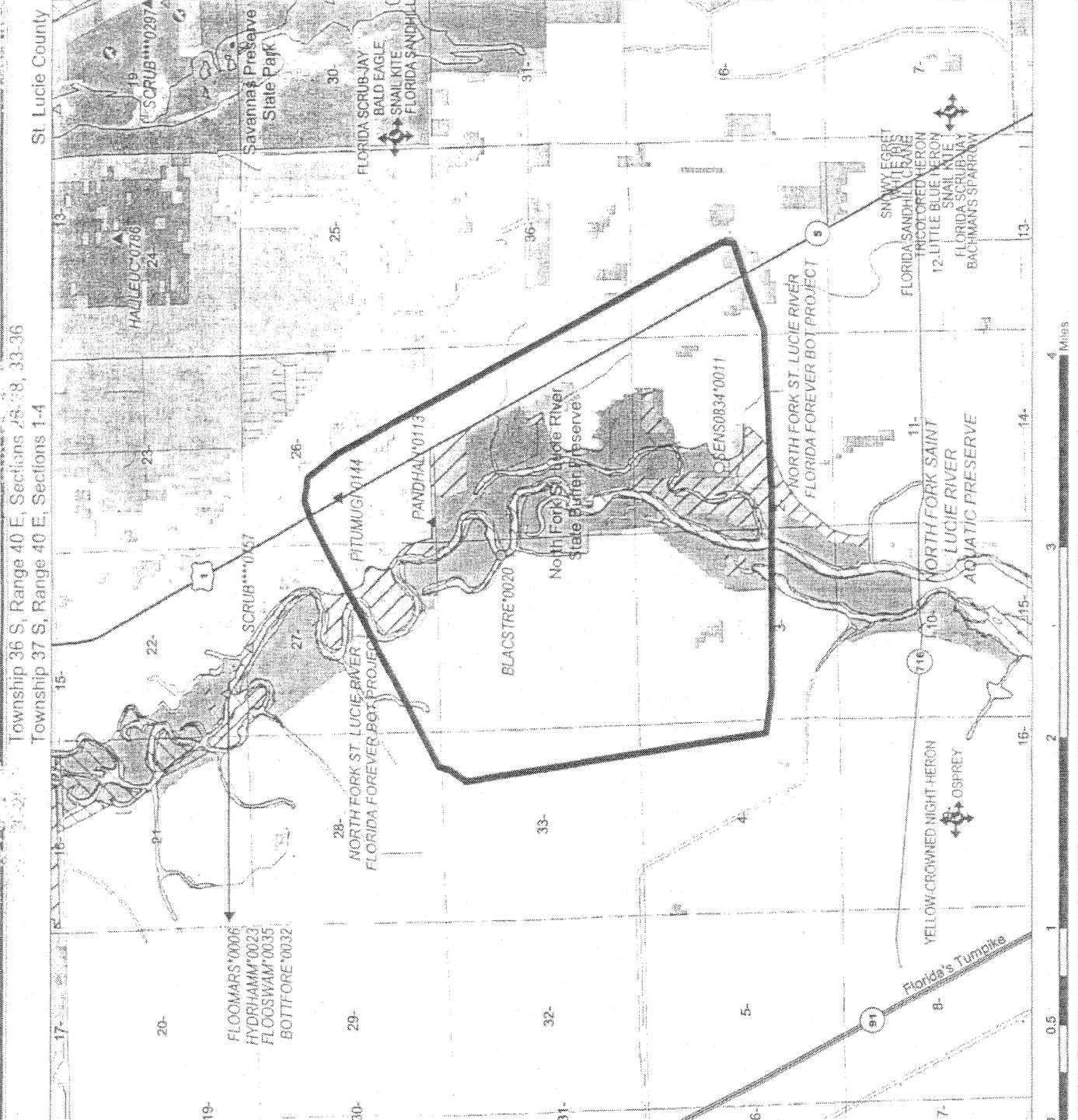
- FNAI Potential Habitat for Rare Species
- FNAI Potential
- Natural Areas

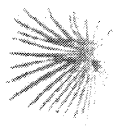
## County Boundary

- Interstate
- Turnpike
- Major Highway
- Local Road
- Water

Map produced  
by EAA  
Data Source: 01/03

NOTE:  
Map should not be interpreted without  
accompanying documents.





FLORIDA  
Natural Areas  
INVENTORY

# Florida Natural Areas Inventory



## Element Occurrences on or near Site

Map Label	Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank	State Rank	State Listing	Observation Date	Description	EO Comments
PANDHAI*0113	PANDION HALIAETUS	OSPREY	G5	S3S4	N	LS*	1991-01-07	Open water bay, lagoon, tidal creek or river, including intracoastal waterways
HALILEUC*0706	HALIAETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS	BALD EAGLE	G4	S3	LT	LT	1995	NO GENERAL DESCRIPTION GIVEN
PITUMUGI*0144	PITUOPHIS MELANOLEUCUS MUGITUS	FLORIDA PINE SNAKE	G4T37	S3	N	LS	1950-06-13	NO GENERAL DESCRIPTION GIVEN
FLOOSWAM*0035	FLOODPLAIN SWAMP	ZZ	G4	S4	N	N	ZZ	TERRA CEIA MUCK, TYPICAL FLOODPLAIN SOIL WITH AN ORGANIC LAYER EXTENDING TO A DEPTH OF 80 INCHES OR MORE.
FLOOMARS*0006	FLOODPLAIN MARSH	ZZ	G3?	S2	N	N	ZZ	NO GENERAL DESCRIPTION GIVEN
BOITTORE*0032	BOTTOMLAND FOREST	ZZ	G4	S3	N	N	ZZ	TERRA CEIA MUCK TYPICAL FLOODPLAIN SOIL WITH AN ORGANIC LAYER EXTENDING TO A DEPTH OF 80 INCHES OR MORE.
HYDRIAMM*0023	HYDRIC HAMMOCK	ZZ	G4	S4	N	N	ZZ	TERRA CEIA MUCK WITH ORGANIC LAYER EXTENDING TO A DEPTH OF 80 INCHES OR MORE.
BLACSTRE*0020	BLACKWATER STREAM	ZZ	G4	S3	N	N	ZZ	16 MI OF DESIGNATED AQUATIC PRESERVE
SCRUB***0757	SCRUB	ZZ	G2	S2	N	N	ZZ	OCCURS ON PENDARVIS SAND
SENS0834*0011	DATA SENSITIVE	DATA SENSITIVE	G1	S1	LE	LE	1995-12-03	NO EO DATA GIVEN IN DUEVER.

## Florida Natural Areas Inventory Potential Natural Areas (PNA) Data Layer

### POTENTIAL NATURAL AREAS (PNA)

The Potential Natural Areas data layer indicates, throughout the State of Florida, lands that are in private ownership and are not managed or listed for conservation purposes that are possible examples of good quality natural communities. These areas were determined from FNAI's scientific staff vegetative interpretation of 1988-1993 FDOT aerial photographs and from input received during Regional Ecological Workshops held for each regional planning council. These workshops were attended by experts familiar with natural areas in the region. Element occurrences in the FNAI database may or may not be present on these sites. In order to be classified as a Potential Natural Area (with the exception of internal rank PNA-5) the natural communities identified through aerial photographs must meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a minimum of 500 acres. *Exceptions:* sandhill, min. 320 acres; scrub, min. 80 acres; pine rockland, min. 20 acres; dry prairie, min. 320 acres; or any example of coastal rock barren, upland glade, coastal dune lake, spring-run stream or terrestrial cave.
2. Must contain at least one of the following:
  - a. One or more high quality examples of FNAI state ranked S3 or above natural communities.
  - b. An outstanding example of any FNAI tracked natural community.

Potential Natural Areas have been assigned ranks of PNA-1 through PNA-4 mostly based on size and perceived quality and type of natural community present. The areas included in internal rank PNA-5 (former ACI Category C) are exceptions to the above criteria. These areas were identified through the same process of aerial photographic interpretation and regional workshops as the PNA 1 through 4 ranked sites, but do not meet the standard criteria. These PNA 5 areas are considered lower priority for conservation than areas ranked PNA 1- 4, but nonetheless are believed to be ecologically viable tracts of land representative of Florida's natural ecosystems.



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## FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

### Florida Scrub-Jay Survey and Breeding Bird Atlas Data Layers

In addition to our element occurrence database of rare species and natural community locations, the Inventory has additional data layers that have been provided by state and federal agencies.

#### Florida Scrub-Jay Survey - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

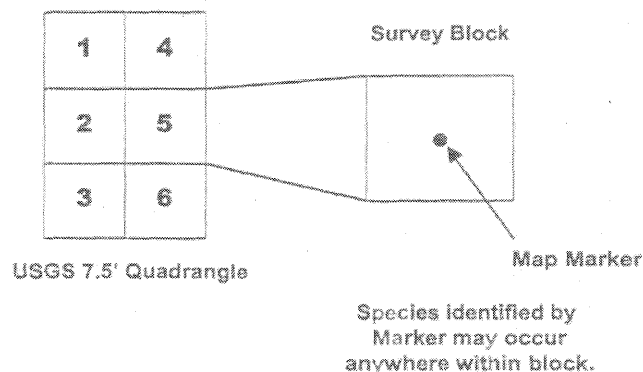
This survey was conducted by staff and associates of the Archbold Biological Station from 1992 to 1996. An attempt was made to record all scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) groups, although most federal lands were not officially surveyed.

Each map point represents one or more groups.

#### Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Project - Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (now Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)

This study was conducted from 1986 to 1991, (final report, *An Atlas of Florida's Breeding Birds* by Kale, Pranty, Stith, and Biggs, Nongame Wildlife Program, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission). The study divided the state into "blocks", with each block representing one-sixth of a U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle map. Several categories of breeding activity were recorded by observers.

Each map point is located at the center of a block, and represents species listed as Possible or Probable Breeders within the surrounding block (approximately 10 square miles in area).



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# FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 224-8207 Page 1

April, 1998

## St. Lucie County Summary Rare Species and Natural Communities

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank*	State Rank*	Federal Status*	State Status*	Occurrence Status†
<u>FISH</u>						
<i>Awaous tajasica</i>	river goby	G5	S1S2	N	N	P
<i>Bairdiella sanctaeluciae</i>	striped croaker	G5	S2	N	N	C
<i>Gobiomorus dormitor</i>	bigmouth sleeper	G5	S2	N	N	C
<i>Microphis brachyurus</i>	opossum pipefish	G5	S2	N	N	C
<i>Rivulus marmoratus</i>	mangrove rivulus	G5	S3	N	LS	P
<u>AMPHIBIANS</u>						
<i>Rana capito</i>	gopher frog	G4	S3	N	LS	C
<u>REPTILES</u>						
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator	G5	S4	T(S/A)	LS	C
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	loggerhead	G3	S3	LT	LT	C
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	green turtle	G3	S2	LE	LE	C
<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	eastern diamondback rattlesnake	G5	S3	N	N	C
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	leatherback	G3	S2	LE	LE	C
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	eastern indigo snake	G4T3	S3	LT	LT	C
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	hawksbill	G3	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	gopher tortoise	G3	S3	N	LS	C
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	Kemp's ridley	G1	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	Florida pine snake	G5T3?	S3	N	LS	C
<i>Sceloporus woodi</i>	Florida scrub lizard	G3	S3	N	N	C
<u>BIRDS</u>						
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's hawk	G4	S3?	N	N	C
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's sparrow	G3	S3	N	N	P
<i>Aiaia ajaja</i>	roseate spoonbill	G5	S2S3	N	LS	P
<i>Aphelocoma coerulescens</i>	Florida scrub-jay	G3	S3	LT	LT	C
<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	limpkin	G5	S3	N	LS	P
<i>Ardea alba</i>	great egret	G5	S4	N	N	C
<i>Ardea herodias occidentalis</i>	great white heron	G5T2	S2	N	N	P
<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	short-tailed hawk	G4?	S3	N	N	P
<i>Caracara plancus</i>	crested caracara	G5	S2	LT	LT	C
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	piping plover	G3	S2	LT	LT	P
<i>Dendroica discolor paludicola</i>	Florida prairie warbler	G5T3	S3	N	N	P
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	little blue heron	G5	S4	N	LS	C
<i>Egretta thula</i>	snowy egret	G5	S4	N	LS	C
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	tricolored heron	G5	S4	N	LS	C
<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	swallow-tailed kite	G4	S2S3	N	N	P
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	white ibis	G5	S4	N	LS	C
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	merlin	G5	SU	N	N	C
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	peregrine falcon	G4	S2	LE	LE	C
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	southeastern American kestrel	G5T3T4	S3?	N	LT	P
<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	magnificent frigatebird	G5	S1	N	N	P
<i>Grus canadensis pratensis</i>	Florida sandhill crane	G5T2T3	S2S3	N	LT	P
<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	American oystercatcher	G5	S3	N	LS	P
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	G4	S3	LT	LT	C
<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	worm-eating warbler	G5	S1	N	N	C
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	least bittern	G5	S4	N	N	P

# FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 224-8207 Page 2

April, 1998

## St. Lucie County Summary Rare Species and Natural Communities

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank*	State Rank*	Federal Status*	State Status*	Occurrence Status†
<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	black rail	G4	S3?	N	N	P
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	wood stork	G4	S2	LE	LE	C
<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	yellow-crowned night-heron	G5	S3?	N	N	C
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	black-crowned night-heron	G5	S3?	N	N	C
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	G5	S3S4	N	LS**	C
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	brown pelican	G4	S3	N	LS	C
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	hairy woodpecker	G5	S3?	N	N	P
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	glossy ibis	G5	S2	N	N	P
<i>Rallus longirostris scottii</i>	Florida clapper rail	G5T3?	S3?	N	N	P
<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus</i>	snail kite	G4G5T1	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Rynchops niger</i>	black skimmer	G5	S3	N	LS	C
<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	American redstart	G5	S3	N	N	C
<i>Speotyto cunicularia floridana</i>	Florida burrowing owl	G4T3	S3	N	LS	C
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	least tern	G4	S3	N	LT	C
<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Caspian tern	G5	S2?	N	N	P
<i>Sterna maxima</i>	royal tern	G5	S3	N	N	P
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	sandwich tern	G5	S2	N	N	P
<i>Vireo altiloquus</i>	black-whiskered vireo	G5	S3	N	N	P
<b>MAMMALS</b>						
<i>Neofiber alieni</i>	round-tailed muskrat	G3	S3	N	N	P
<i>Peromyscus polionotus niveiventris</i>	southeastern beach mouse	G5T1	S1	LT	LT	C
<i>Podomys floridanus</i>	Florida mouse	G3	S3	N	LS	P
<i>Sciurus niger shermani</i>	Sherman's fox squirrel	G5T2	S2	N	LS	C
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	manatee	G2?	S2?	LE	LE	C
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>						
<i>Argusia gnaphalodes</i>	sea lavender	G4	S3	N	LE	C
<i>Aristida rhizomophora</i>	Florida three-awned grass	G2	S2	N	N	C
<i>Asclepias curtissii</i>	Curtiss' milkweed	G3	S3	N	LE	C
<i>Chamaesyce cumulicola</i>	sand-dune spurge	G2	S2	N	LE	C
<i>Chetraglossa palmata</i>	hand fern	G4	S2	N	LE	C
<i>Coelorachis tuberculosa</i>	piedmont jointgrass	G3	S3	N	N	C
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	large-flowered rosemary	G3	S3	N	LE	C
<i>Dicerandra immaculata</i>	Lakela's mint	G1	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Elytraria caroliniensis</i> var <i>angustifolia</i>	narrow-leaved Carolina scalystem	G4T2	S2	N	N	R
<i>Glandularia maritima</i>	coastal vervain	G3	S3	N	LE	C
<i>Glandularia tampensis</i>	Tampa vervain	G1	S1	N	LE	R
<i>Halophila johnsonii</i>	Johnson's seagrass	G2	S2	PT	N	C
<i>Harrisia fragrans</i>	fragrant prickly apple	G1Q	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	nodding pinweed	G3	S3	N	LT	C
<i>Nolina atopocarpa</i>	Florida beargrass	G3	S3	N	LT	C
<i>Okenia hypogaea</i>	burrowing four-o'clock	G3	S2	N	LE	C
<i>Peperomia humilis</i>	terrestrial peperomia	G5	S2	N	LE	C
<i>Peperomia obtusifolia</i>	blunt-leaved peperomia	G5	S2	N	LE	C
<i>Polygala smallii</i>	tiny polygala	G1	S1	LE	LE	C
<i>Tephrosia angustissima</i> var <i>curtissii</i>	coastal hoary-pea	G1T1	S1	N	LE	C
<i>Vanilla mexicana</i>	scentless vanilla	G2G4	S1	N	LE	R

# FLORIDA NATURAL AREAS INVENTORY

1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 224-8207 Page 3

April, 1998

## St. Lucie County Summary Rare Species and Natural Communities

Scientific Name	Common Name	Global Rank*	State Rank*	Federal Status*	State Status*	Occurrence Status†
<u>NATURAL COMMUNITIES</u>						
Basin Swamp		G4?	S3	N	N	C
Beach Dune		G4?	S2	N	N	C
Blackwater Stream		G4	S2	N	N	C
Coastal Strand		G3?	S2	N	N	C
Depression Marsh		G4?	S3	N	N	C
Dry Prairie		G2	S2	N	N	C
Estuarine Tidal Marsh		G4	S4	N	N	C
Estuarine Tidal Swamp		G3	S3	N	N	C
Floodplain Forest		G?	S3	N	N	C
Floodplain Marsh		G3?	S2	N	N	C
Floodplain Swamp		G?	S4?	N	N	C
Hydric Hammock		G?	S4?	N	N	C
Maritime Hammock		G4	S2	N	N	C
Mesic Flatwoods		G?	S4	N	N	C
Scrubby Flatwoods		G3	S3	N	N	C
Scrub		G2	S2	N	N	C
Swale		G4?	S3	N	N	C
Wet Flatwoods		G?	S4?	N	N	C
Wet Prairie		G?	S4?	N	N	C
<u>OTHER</u>						
Bird rookery				N	N	C
Manatee aggregation site				N	N	C

\* See attached *FNAI Rank Explanations* sheet for definitions of Global and State Ranks, and State and Federal Status

\*\* See attached *FNAI Rank Explanations* sheet, *Special Animal Listings - State and Federal Status* section

### † COUNTY OCCURRENCE STATUS

#### Vertebrates and Invertebrates:

C = (Confirmed) Occurrence status derived from a documented record in the FNAI data base.

P = (Potential) Occurrence status derived from a reported occurrence for the county, or the occurrence lies within the published range of the taxon.

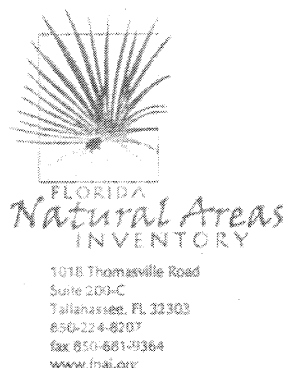
N = (Nesting) For sea turtles only; occurrence status derived from documented nesting occurrences.

#### Plants, Natural Communities, and Other:

C = (Confirmed) Occurrence status derived from a documented record in the FNAI data base or from a herbarium specimen.

R = (Reported) Occurrence status derived from published reports.





## GLOBAL AND STATE RANKS

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) defines an element as any rare or exemplary component of the natural environment, such as a species, natural community, bird rookery, spring, sinkhole, cave, or other ecological feature. FNAI assigns two ranks to each element found in Florida: the **global rank**, which is based on an element's worldwide status, and the **state rank**, which is based on the status of the element within Florida. Element ranks are based on many factors, including estimated number of occurrences, estimated abundance (for species and populations) or area (for natural communities), estimated number of adequately protected occurrences, range, threats, and ecological fragility.

### GLOBAL RANK DEFINITIONS

- G1 Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences or less than 1000 individuals) or because of extreme vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or human factor.
- G2 Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or less than 3000 individuals) or because of vulnerability to extinction due to some natural or human factor.
- G3 Either very rare and local throughout its range (21-100 occurrences or less than 10,000 individuals), or found locally in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction from other factors.
- G4 Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
- G5 Demonstrably secure globally.
- GH Occurred historically throughout its range, but has not been observed for many years.
- GX Believed to be extinct throughout range.
- GXC Extirpated from the wild but still known from captivity or cultivation.
- G#? Rank uncertain (e.g., G2?).
- G#G# Range of rank; insufficient data to assign specific global rank (e.g., G2G3).
- G#T# Rank of a taxonomic subgroup such as a subspecies or variety; the G portion of the rank refers to the entire species, and the T portion refers to the subgroup; T# has same definition as G#.
- G#Q Ranked as species but there is some question as to whether it is a valid species.
- G#T#Q Same as above, but validity as subspecies or variety is questioned.
- GU Global rank unknown; due to lack of information, no rank or range can be assigned.
- G? Temporarily not ranked.

### STATE RANK DEFINITIONS

State ranks (S#) follow the same system and have the same definitions as global ranks, except they apply only to Florida, with the following additions:

- SA Accidental in Florida and not part of the established biota.
- SE Exotic species established in Florida (may be native elsewhere in North America).
- SX Believed to be extirpated from state.



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**FEDERAL AND STATE LEGAL STATUSES**

Provided by FNAI for information only.

For official definitions and lists of protected species, consult the relevant state or federal agency.

**FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS**

Definitions derived from U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, Sec. 3. Note that the federal status given by FNAI refers only to Florida populations and that federal status may differ elsewhere.

LE	Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
LT	Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
E(S/A)	Endangered due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed such that enforcement personnel have difficulty in attempting to differentiate between the listed and unlisted species.
T(S/A)	Threatened due to similarity of appearance (see above).
PE	Proposed for listing as Endangered species.
PT	Proposed for listing as Threatened species.
C	Candidate species for which federal listing agencies have sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support proposing to list the species as Endangered or Threatened.
XN	Non-essential experimental population.
MC	Not currently listed, but of management concern to USFWS.
N	Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing as Endangered or Threatened.

**FLORIDA LEGAL STATUSES**

**Animals:** Definitions derived from "Florida's Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern, Official Lists" published by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 1 August 1997, and subsequent updates.

LE	Endangered: species, subspecies, or isolated population so few or depleted in number or so restricted in range that it is in imminent danger of extinction.
LT	Threatened: species, subspecies, or isolated population facing a very high risk of extinction in the future.
LS	Species of Special Concern is a species, subspecies, or isolated population which is facing a moderate risk of extinction in the future.
PE	Proposed for listing as Endangered.
PT	Proposed for listing as Threatened.
PS	Proposed for listing as Species of Special Concern.
N	Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

**Plants:** Definitions derived from Sections 581.011 and 581.185(2), Florida Statutes, and the Preservation of Native Flora of Florida Act, 5B-40.001. FNAI does not track all state-regulated plant species; for a complete list of state-regulated plant species, call Florida Division of Plant Industry, 352-372-3505.

LE	Endangered: species of plants native to Florida that are in imminent danger of extinction within the state, the survival of which is unlikely if the causes of a decline in the number of plants continue; includes all species determined to be endangered or threatened pursuant to the U.S. Endangered Species Act.
LT	Threatened: species native to the state that are in rapid decline in the number of plants within the state, but which have not so decreased in number as to cause them to be Endangered.
PE	Proposed for listing as Endangered.
PT	Proposed for listing as Threatened.
N	Not currently listed, nor currently being considered for listing.

From: "Edwin A. Abbey" <eabbey@fnai.org>  
To: <beatriz.caicedo@dot.state.fl.us>  
Date: Thu, Aug 7, 2003 2:12 PM  
Subject: FNAI Data Report for Third East-West River Crossing

Mr. Schmidt,

Attached is a pdf file of the FNAI Data Report on the Advance Notification Project Development and Environment Study; Third East-West River Crossing. If you have any problems with the file or questions about the report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I have Cc'd Mr. England this email who can also direct any questions to me.

The only problems I've had sending the pdf files out have occurred when someone is trying to open them with an older version of Adobe Acrobat.

Thank You,

Sincerely,

—

Edwin A. Abbey  
Environmental Reviewer  
Florida Natural Areas Inventory  
1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 224-8207 x 206  
eabbey@fnai.org

CC: <waltere@cityofpsl.com>



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gnn Chih Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 • (561) 686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • TDD (561) 697-2374  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • www.sfwmd.gov

GOV 04-40

August 14, 2003

Mr. Walter England, P.E.  
City of Port St. Lucie  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Dear Mr. England:

**Subject: Third East-West Crossing of North Fork of St. Lucie River  
Advance Notification [FPN#: 410844-1-52-1] [SAI#: 200307143088C]**

In response to your request, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) staff has reviewed the Advance Notification for the above subject project which is located in FDOT District 4. According to the Fact Sheet, a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study will be conducted to evaluate the need for a third east-west crossing of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River to connect to the proposed West Virginia Corridor. The proposed improvements include a new six-lane bridge and a corridor wide enough to accommodate an eventual six-lane cross-section both east and west of the bridge. The initial improvements will consist of a four-lane cross-section.

After review of the documentation submitted, the SFWMD offers the following comments:

### General Comments

- (1) The proposed roadway improvements will require an Environmental Resource Permit, pursuant to Rules 40E-1, 40E-4, 40E-40, 40E-41, and 40E-400, F.A.C.
- (2) The proposed roadway improvements must meet the SFWMD's water quality and water quantity criteria as specified in the Basis of Review for Environmental Resource Permit Applications
- (3) To the extent possible, any wetland impacts due to location, design, and construction techniques should be minimized. Please note that information documenting that any proposed wetland impacts are unavoidable will be required at the time of permit application, as well as information on the alternatives considered to reduce the proposed impacts. Mitigation will be required for any unavoidable wetland impacts.
- (4) The City/FDOT should coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding potential impacts to listed species.

#### GOVERNING BOARD

Nicolas J. Gutiérrez, Jr., Esq., *Chair*  
Pamela Brooks-Thomas, *Vice-Chair*  
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Lennart E. Lindahl, P.E.

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Trudi K. Williams, P.E.

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Henry Dean, *Executive Director*

Mr. Walter England, P.E.

August 14, 2003

Page 2

- (5) A Water Use Permit may be required for any dewatering activities associated with the proposed roadway improvements, pursuant to Rule 40E-2, F.A.C. Please contact the SFWMD's Water Use Division at (561) 682-6926, prior to the initiation of any dewatering activities and subsequent to the completion of the Contamination Screening Evaluation Report, to schedule a pre-application conference to discuss the details of the proposed dewatering activities. Please note that, if the proposed roadway improvements include dewatering activities within contamination areas or if the dewatering activities have the potential to result in the induced movement of the contamination plume, a pre-application meeting involving SFWMD Water Use staff and the appropriate staff from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection should be scheduled to discuss management of dewatering effluent, including the design of appropriate containment/treatment methods.
- (6) A Water Use Permit will be required for any ground or surface water withdrawals for landscape irrigation, pursuant to Rules 40E-2 and 40E-20, F.A.C.

Project Specific Comments

- (7) The proposed bridge should be designed to direct all storm water runoff through the surface water management system. Please be advised that the use of scuppers and water quality mitigation are not acceptable alternatives.
- (8) Since the proposed project will discharge directly into an Outstanding Florida Water/Aquatic Preserve, the proposed surface water management system design will need to include reasonable anti-degradation assurances. Typically, this is accomplished by providing 150% of the standard water quality treatment.
- (9) If the proposed project is greater than 40% impervious, the surface water management system will need to provide at least 1/2-inch of dry detention or retention pre-treatment.
- (10) Since a portion of the proposed project will be located within the 100-year flood plain for the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, the post-development scenario must provide equal or greater compensating flood storage than the pre-development scenario.
- (11) Many of the wetlands within the potential alignment area are in excellent condition, particularly within and adjacent to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve. Adverse impacts to the functions of these high-quality wetlands should be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable, through alignment alternatives and engineering design. The permit application should contain a thorough analysis of wetland avoidance and minimization, including the rationale for selecting the preferred alignment and rejecting alternative options.

Mr. Walter England, P.E.  
August 14, 2003  
Page 3

- (12) Impacts to wetlands within and immediately adjacent to the North Fork should be mitigated within the North Fork system, through coordination with staff of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Coastal Aquatic Managed Areas, St. Lucie County, and the SFWMD. Staff recommends early coordination to identify mitigation options, such as the purchase and restoration of lands containing oxbows within the North Fork system and/or mitigation options associated with Ten-Mile Creek.
- (13) Publicly-owned lands should be identified and mapped, particularly those lands associated with the North Fork. Lands within the Preserve that will be utilized for this project may require a land swap with the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund or a public easement over the sovereign submerged lands. The time-frame for completing this project should reflect the necessary time for consideration by the Board of Trustees (i.e., the Governor and Cabinet).
- (14) Bridging of the North Fork should be designed in such a way as to avoid filling of the floodplain. In addition, an upland corridor adjacent to the floodplain should be preserved.
- (15) An estimation of the functional value of wetland impacts and the quantity of mitigation needed to offset the proposed impacts should be undertaken pursuant to Chapter 62-345, F.A.C. (adopted on August 6, 2003 with an effective date of February 2, 2004).

Should any of the above require additional clarification, please give me a call at (561) 682-6862

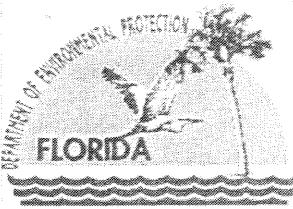
Sincerely,



James J. Golden, AICP  
Senior Planner  
Environmental Resource Regulation

/lig

c: Lauren Milligan, DCA  
Gustavo Schmidt, DOT  
Jeff Beal, DEP



Jeb Bush  
Governor

*Vicki S.* **COPY**

## Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

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OCT 01 2003

CITY OF PSL  
ENGINEERING

David B. Struhs  
Secretary

September 26, 2003

Mr. Walter England, P.E.  
City Engineer  
City of Port St. Lucie  
121 SW Port St. Lucie Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984-5099

Re: Department of Transportation, Advance Notification, Third East-West Crossing  
of the St. Lucie River, PD&E Study, Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida

SAI #: FL200307143088C

Dear Mr. England:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated the review of the above-referenced Advance Notification (AN).

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has expressed concern regarding the need for a third crossing of both the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and the North Fork St. Lucie River State Buffer Preserve, at their widest and most biologically diverse points. The City must demonstrate that it has explored other alternatives for achieving the purposes for which the third crossing would be constructed, and that there are no other practical alternatives for meeting those objectives. An easement and permit authorization for the crossing must be obtained from the Governor and Cabinet (sitting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund), and the City must demonstrate that the project is consistent with the purposes for which the State established the aquatic preserves. Please see the enclosed DEP memorandum for detailed information regarding the Department's concerns and recommendations.

The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) indicates that the project does not conflict with its Strategic Regional Policy Plan; however, a new river crossing has the potential to significantly impact existing residential development and natural systems located adjacent to the river. The TCRPC recommends that subsequent studies identify alternatives that will minimize impacts to existing development, natural systems and the river, with identification of the full costs and benefits of each alternative. Please see the enclosed TCRPC comments for detailed information.

"More Protection, Less Process"

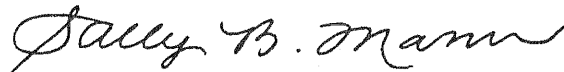
Printed on recycled paper.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) indicates that the proposed project will require an Environmental Resource Permit and must meet the District's water quality and water quantity criteria as specified in its Basis of Review for Environmental Resource Permit Applications. The SFWMD indicates that wetland impacts must be minimized, and at the time of permit application, the applicant must provide information to document the avoidance of wetland impacts through consideration of alternatives. Mitigation will be required for unavoidable impacts, and a water use permit may be required for dewatering activities within areas that are contaminated. If a water use permit is required, the applicant must participate in a pre-application conference between the staffs of the SFWMD and the DEP to discuss a dewatering management plan. Please see the enclosed comments from the SFWMD.

Based on the information contained in the advance notification and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the allocation of federal funds for the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The applicant must, however, address the concerns identified by the reviewing agencies. All subsequent environmental documents must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence on the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Bob Hall at (850) 245-2163.

Sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director  
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/rwh

Enclosures

cc: Jim Golden, SFWMD  
Wynsom Hatton, TCRPC  
Gustavo Schmidt, DOT, Ft. Lauderdale



## Memorandum

## Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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Florida State Clearinghouse

**FROM:** Robert W. Hall, Environmental Specialist  
Office of Intergovernmental Programs



**DATE:** September 23, 2003

Florida Department of Transportation – Advance Notification  
PD&E Study for Third East-West Crossing of the St. Lucie River  
St. Lucie County, Florida – SAI No. FL200307143088C

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### INTRODUCTION

The Office of Intergovernmental Programs has coordinated a review of the referenced Advance Notification with appropriate Division and District staff within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or Department). The Advance Notification describes a proposal for construction of a new six-lane bridge across the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve (NFSLRAP) and the North Fork St. Lucie River State Buffer Preserve (BP) at West Virginia Drive. The applicant (City of Port St. Lucie or City) states that the new travel lanes would improve the capacity, safety and operational efficiency of traffic crossing the river, while enhancing the east-west emergency evacuation route for coastal residents. The alignment under consideration is shown as a “potential alignment area,” somewhere between the existing Prima Vista Boulevard crossing and the Port St. Lucie Boulevard crossing.

Based on a review of the limited information provided by the applicant, the Department has concerns about several aspects of the proposal, particularly the need for the project (based on available transportation studies), the environmental impacts that may result from construction of a third east-west crossing of the St. Lucie River and associated aquatic and buffer preserves, and the segmented consideration of only one portion of the transportation corridor that would eventually connect Interstate 95 (I-95) and the Florida Turnpike with Hutchinson Island. The DEP therefore recommends that the applicant:

1. Prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the entire transportation corridor proposed or contemplated between I-95 and Hutchinson Island, in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The EIS should cover the purpose and need for the project, logical termini of all proposed or contemplated corridor segments, and the other items described in the Recommendations section of this Memorandum (*see* pages 9-10).
2. Provide to the Department’s Division of State Lands the information necessary for its consideration of an easement and permit authorization across the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and Buffer Preserve.

### PROJECT NEED

The City initially proposed a crossing of the NFSLRAP and BP to relieve local traffic congestion, specifically at U.S. Highway 1. A 1998 FDOT corridor analysis determined, however, that construction of the West Virginia Drive corridor would probably "not divert sufficient traffic from adjacent corridors (Port St. Lucie Boulevard and Prima Vista Boulevard) to improve either corridor."<sup>1</sup> The analysis also found that the proposed West Virginia Drive corridor would divert only a small fraction (8%) of the traffic at the intersection of U.S. 1 and Port St. Lucie Boulevard, and thus not eliminate the need for major improvements planned for the intersection. The FDOT report further recommended that the need for expansion of the West Virginia Drive corridor be reevaluated in light of "the associated significant costs and environmental/neighborhood impacts." To date, DEP is not aware of any official study or data that rescinds the 1998 FDOT findings.

The need for the West Virginia Drive project is further clouded by the issue of the previously proposed Walton Road bridge over the Indian River Lagoon. Documentation from the City indicates that its focus is on construction of the new North Fork crossing described in the referenced AN, and that the local Expressway Authority is responsible for planning the Walton Road project. Yet, the City's own comprehensive plan, as well as documents prepared by the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), describes the Walton Road bridge and purported need for that crossing.

In the Advance Notification, the "Need for Project" section states that "the proposed improvements would provide an additional east-west emergency evacuation route, which would improve safety conditions for coastal residents." It is unclear how a third North Fork crossing supports this claim, however, because 70% of Port St. Lucie residents live on the west side of the North Fork river. The nearby Jensen Beach Causeway and bridge in Martin County (over the Indian River Lagoon) is the crossing most Port St. Lucie residents currently use to access area beaches. Although the Jensen Beach bridge is being raised to a height of sixty-five feet to eliminate the drawbridge, the new causeway will still have only two lanes. At planning meetings conducted during the feasibility phase of the Jensen Beach bridge study, FDOT stated that traffic projections warranted only two lanes because the barrier island (Hutchinson) is 95% built-out.

The "Need for Project" section of the Advance Notification accurately states that the population of the region continues to grow, but neglects to point out certain key issues that relate to the "public interest" criteria to be weighed when determining whether activities will be permitted within the aquatic preserve.<sup>2</sup> For example, local comprehensive planning documents show that 70% of the residents of the City live on the *west* side of the North Fork. Yet, recent development has primarily been focused along the U.S. 1 corridor on the *east* side of the North Fork. A Wal-Mart Super Center was recently constructed on U.S. 1, and the City has identified a large area for construction of a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) on U.S. 1. Rather than constructing a six-lane bridge through the aquatic and buffer preserves, the City should consider

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<sup>1</sup> See attached Letter from FDOT to Ms. Cheri Boudreaux Fitzgerald dated July 28, 1998 (West Virginia Corridor).

<sup>2</sup> See Rule 18-20.004(2), *F.A.C.*

other "smart-growth" alternatives, such as establishing a town center on the west side of the North Fork where the bulk of the residents reside, or widening the existing two-lane bridge that crosses the North Fork at Midway Road, just north of the city limits.

The Department's "Linear Facility Policy" provides criteria for the avoidance of impacts to conservation lands. If it appears that a proposed transportation project will impact state conservation lands, the applicant must demonstrate that there is no "prudent and practical" way to avoid the lands. Before any portion of state-owned conservation lands can be considered for a non-conservation use, the Division of State Lands requires a letter from the agency managing the lands, indicating its willingness to release the property. In its letter, the management agency would describe the specific mitigation proposed for the loss of the lands from conservation use and for the increased management costs expected as a result of the roadway impacts. The Division of State Lands would subsequently develop an agenda item (on the request to impact state conservation lands) for deliberation by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), which is comprised of five state agency heads and four Governor appointees. The ARC must make a determination that the release (surplus) of the lands is "compatible with the resource values of and management objectives for such lands."<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, a 1998 amendment to the State Constitution provides that before state-owned conservation lands can be converted to non-conservation purposes, the Trustees must make an affirmative determination (by two-thirds vote) that the lands are "no longer needed for conservation purposes."<sup>4</sup>

#### EVACUATION REQUIREMENTS

As discussed above, the need for the proposed bridge as a hurricane evacuation route has not been established. In 1994, the Hurricane Evacuation Study performed by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) indicated that a "fast" response time for evacuating all of St. Lucie County for a Category 1 storm would be 7.25 hours. A county official's report following Hurricane Floyd in 1999 stated that the area was actually evacuated in 7 hours. Although the bridge is mentioned in the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Plan, neither that plan nor current proposals of the local MPO include a substantive analysis that would justify construction of another bridge across the Indian River Lagoon or its tributaries, the NFSLRAP and BP, for evacuation purposes.

#### EVALUATION OF LOGICAL TERMINI

Because roads and roadway corridors can have a significant adverse impact on natural resources, state and federal agencies have developed guidelines for evaluating proposed transportation projects. The proposed project fails to meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines that provide for the assessment of roadway impacts and describe problems associated with the piecemeal evaluation of proposed roadways. 23 CFR 771.111(f) states that to ensure meaningful evaluation of alternatives and avoid commitments to transportation improvements

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<sup>3</sup> FLA. STAT. § 253.034(6)(e) (2002).

<sup>4</sup> FLA. CONST. art. X, § 18. Because the Board of Trustees was reduced from seven to four members, the 2003 Florida Legislature changed the two-thirds vote requirement to three-of-four members' affirmative vote for the conversion of conservation lands to non-conservation uses. Ch. 2003-6, § 14, 2003 Fla. Laws 6.

The BP lands were purchased primarily to augment habitat and water quality protection within the NFSLRAP. The buffer provides approximately eight miles of natural riverfront for the NFSLRAP, which totals 5,000 acres and drains a watershed of 333 square miles. Together, the NFSLRAP and the downstream estuary encompass a watershed of 775 square miles. The Aquatic Preserve designation is given to waterways with inherent natural resource value, and sites are to be "managed primarily for the maintenance of essentially natural conditions[.]"<sup>9</sup> The NFSLRAP is a wilderness preserve and major tributary to the St. Lucie Estuary, Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve, and the Atlantic Ocean. Sovereignty lands below mean high water contain riverine and estuarine habitats, such as tidal swamp mangrove and leatherfern, floodplain marsh, and hydric hammock. The river is essential habitat for listed species such as the West Indian manatee and American alligator and is also one of the few places in the state providing suitable habitat for four threatened tropical peripheral fishes: bigmouth sleeper, opossum pipefish, river goby, and slashcheek goby. Those four species have stenotypic habitat requirements associated with freshwater systems, and the latter two species are found only in the freshwater tributaries of the Indian River Lagoon.

A component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Indian River Lagoon-South Feasibility Study identifies roughly \$1,000,000,000 in projects necessary to address water quality issues within the St. Lucie River system, including the highly degraded North Fork St. Lucie River. Development along this sensitive and highly impaired river corridor may have irreparable adverse impacts on the health, productivity, and sustainability of natural communities and indigenous organisms within the riverine system. In many places, the narrow buffer preserve represents the only buffer between the aquatic preserve and urban development, which has been a significant contributor to the degraded condition of the river and estuary. Construction of another bridge across the NFSLRAP would add significant adverse impacts to a seriously degraded ecosystem.

#### WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT

Substantial state and federal investments have been made to protect lands and natural resources that would be affected by the proposed bridge construction. In addition to the public funds expended to acquire environmentally sensitive lands and implement state and federal resource management plans, public funds are being spent to develop a pollution load-reduction model for the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), which includes the NFSLRAP and BP areas. As part of the CERP, the establishment and implementation of a total maximum daily load model for the lagoon will reduce phosphorus levels and turbidity in the estuary. Retention reservoirs similar in function to those being used to clean water entering the Everglades system have been proposed in the IRL-South Feasibility Study, a combined federal-state-local effort to restore water quality in the IRL ecosystem. An analysis of the potential adverse impacts related to the restoration effort needs to be included in the Environmental Assessment.

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<sup>9</sup> Rule 18-20.001(1), F.A.C.

### STORMWATER

Stormwater runoff from the proposed bridge would exacerbate water quality problems, yet plans for the proposed bridge submitted to date have not indicated that stormwater retention or detention measures will be considered or implemented. Sufficient space for stormwater treatment is not evident on the mainland due to developed residential areas. Without appropriate stormwater management facilities, it is questionable whether the waters and other resources of the NFSLRAP, BP, Savannas and IRL ecosystems can be protected from oils, greases, metals, sediment, and other pollutants contained in stormwater discharges from the proposed bridge. Compliance with regulatory requirements for Outstanding Florida Waters<sup>10</sup> may be difficult to achieve under current proposals, and a thorough environmental assessment of stormwater treatment systems necessary for protecting the Outstanding Florida Waters will be required.

### COASTAL HAZARD MITIGATION

In the extended transportation corridor that links I-95 and Hutchinson Island (of which the West Virginia Drive project is a part), three of four currently proposed alignments for a bridge from Walton Road across the IRL lie within the federal Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) and the high-hazard coastal area designated by St. Lucie County. Most of the area also lies within the Category 1 storm-surge zone and a velocity zone designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The federal Coastal Barrier Resources Act prohibits the use of federal funds to construct, repair or expand roads and public facilities within a unit of the CBRS. Similarly, Section 380.27(2), *F.S.*, prohibits the use of state funds for the expansion of infrastructure in a high-hazard coastal area, unless the expenditure is consistent with the coastal management element of the local government's comprehensive plan. In the instant case, the local governments' comprehensive plans do not provide such justification for the project.

The State Comprehensive Plan (Chapter 187, *F.S.*) discourages the expenditure of funds for infrastructure that would encourage development in high-hazard coastal areas. The plan also promotes the protection of coastal and marine resources from the adverse effects of development and prohibits the destruction of endangered species habitat. Construction of the proposed bridge project and related projects in the transportation corridor between Hutchinson Island and I-95 could stimulate growth and development within the designated high-hazard coastal area and adversely impact the barrier island's estuarine ecosystem.

### PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

Any alternative located within the shaded area depicted in the applicant's location map will affect sovereign submerged lands and state-owned wetlands and uplands; therefore, the project will require final authorization for use of those lands from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Trustees). The City's request for an easement to cross the aquatic preserves must be presented to the Trustees for a determination of the road's compatibility with the conservation and preservation purposes for which the lands were acquired. The

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<sup>10</sup> Rules 62-25.025(9), 62-302.500 and 62-302.700, *F.A.C.*

City must also demonstrate that development of the corridor is "in the public interest" as that term is defined in Chapter 258, *Florida Statutes (F.S.)*, and Chapter 18-20, *Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)*.

The NFSLRAP and BP were established as aquatic preserves under Chapter 258, Part II, *F.S.* As stated in Section 258.36, it was the Legislature's intent that aquatic preserves be kept in essentially natural condition so their biological, aesthetic and scientific values may endure for the enjoyment of future generations. The Preserves have been designated as Class III and Outstanding Florida Waters, designations that afford the two aquatic preserves special protection because of their high-quality recreational and ecologically significant waters. Water quality in Outstanding Florida Waters may not be degraded, and any proposed activity must be found to be "clearly in the public interest" under paragraph 40E-4.302(1)(a), *F.A.C.* Reasonable assurance has not been provided that the proposed activity will be "clearly in the public interest" upon weighing and balancing the factors stated in Subsections 40E-4.302(1)(a), *F.A.C.*

The applicant must also provide reasonable assurance that the construction and operation of the proposed facility – considering direct, secondary and cumulative impacts – will comply with the environmental resource permit (ERP) provisions of Part IV, Chapter 373, *F.S.*, and the rules adopted thereunder. As proposed, the activity does not meet the Conditions for Issuance or Additional Conditions for Issuance for an ERP under Part IV of Chapter 373, *F.S.*; Chapter 62-330, *F.A.C.*; and Sections 40E-4.301 and 40E-4.302, *F.A.C.*, because the applicant has not provided reasonable assurances that:

- (a) The proposed activity will not adversely affect the conservation of fish and wildlife, including endangered or threatened species, or their habitats (40E-4.302(1)(a)2., *F.A.C.*);
- (b) The proposed activity will not adversely affect the fishing or recreational values or marine productivity in the vicinity of the activity (40E-4.302(1)(a)4., *F.A.C.*);
- (c) The proposed activity will not adversely affect the relative value of functions being performed by areas affected by the proposed regulated activity (40E-4.302(1)(a)7., *F.A.C.*);
- (d) The proposed activity will not adversely affect the quality of receiving waters so that the special water quality standards for Outstanding Florida Waters will be met; and
- (e) The proposed activity located in, on, or over wetlands or other surface waters, will be clearly in the public interest.

### SUMMARY

Until the Department has an opportunity to evaluate more detailed information on the proposed project and related projects in the I-95-to-Hutchinson Island corridor and their effects on aquatic preserves, wetlands and surface water quality, the Department cannot support the project or evaluate its consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program. The scope and magnitude of the proposed roadway improvement dictate that the applicant comply with the Federal Highway Administration's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements by evaluating the anticipated environmental impacts at logical termini. It is therefore recommended that the applicant engage all state, local and federal agencies whose jurisdictions will be affected in further discussions before proceeding to PD&E with the proposal.

To avoid crossing the NFSLRAP and BP, the City needs to identify alternatives to the proposed bridge construction, including land use changes and modification of existing transportation system components.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Significant state and federal commitments to protect the Indian River estuarine system, together with the potential for adverse impacts to federal and state resources resulting from construction of a new bridge across the NFSLRAP and BP, warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act.<sup>11</sup> The EIS should document the purpose and need for the project, address the issues discussed in this Memorandum, and give serious consideration to a "no-build" alternative.

2. The scope of the EIS should include all improvements proposed or contemplated along the West Virginia Drive – Walton Road corridor between I-95 and Hutchinson Island. The analysis should include an evaluation of the primary, secondary and cumulative impacts of transportation improvements through the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and the Buffer Preserve, the Savannas State Reserve, the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve and surrounding communities.

3. The EIS should focus on impacts to identified natural resources, water quality degradation, stormwater management and treatment, and compatibility with state and federal resource management plans. Project alternatives should include measures to avoid and minimize all impacts.

4. The EIS should assess potential direct and indirect impacts to neighborhoods within the City of Port St. Lucie that may be affected by increased traffic resulting from the proposed re-routing of I-95 and Turnpike traffic through the City.

5. The EIS should consider secondary and cumulative impacts that may result from additional development on Hutchinson Island if the proposed bridge is built. Items that should

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<sup>11</sup> See attached letter dated March 28, 2000, for discussion of anticipated impacts to the Indian River Lagoon.



be evaluated include stormwater runoff from increased impervious surfaces, impacts to listed species resulting from increased development and human activity on the island, and conflicts with the Coastal Barrier Resource Act.

6. An analysis of existing river crossings should be conducted to determine whether the widening of existing bridges would achieve the objectives sought by the City. FDOT studies do not support the need for a third river crossing.

7. Impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and cultural features of the community, which could be breached by development of the transportation corridor between West Virginia Drive and I-95 and the Florida Turnpike, should be analyzed.

8. The applicant must provide an evaluation of consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program, including an analysis explaining how the proposed bridge and other projects in the I-95-to-Hutchinson Island corridor comply with state statutes and rules, particularly Chapters 253, 258, 370, 373, 380 and 403, *F.S.*

9. The Department recommends that any further planning and evaluation of the project be coordinated with and evaluated by a state-federal-local interagency team, in consultation with the local Metropolitan Planning Organization. If another east-west corridor to Hutchinson Island is justified, the team should also determine the location that minimizes impacts to environmental resources. State participants should include the Departments of Transportation, Community Affairs and Environmental Protection, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the South Florida Water Management District, which is responsible for environmental resource permitting and review of proprietary issues in the preserves.

SBM/rwh

#### Attachments

- Tables 1, 2, and 3.
- 2. Letter from DEP (Sally Mann) to Florida State Clearinghouse dated Mar. 28, 2000.
- 3. Letter from DEP (Kirby Green) to Donald B. Cooper dated Oct. 20, 2000.
- 4. Letter from FDOT (Gustavo Schmidt) to Ms. Cheri Boudreaux Fitzgerald dated July 28, 1998 (with attachments).
- 5. 40 CFR, Part 1508, NEPA Regulations.
- 6. Memorandum dated November 5, 1993, regarding *Guidance on the Development of Logical Project Termini*, from Regional Federal Highway Administrators, Federal Lands Highway Program Administrator.



**Table 3. Listed animal species known to occur within the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve or Buffer Preserve<sup>14</sup>**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FWC	USFWS	FNAI
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	American alligator	T		G5S4
<i>Aramus guaruana</i>	Limpkin	SSC		G5S3
<i>Centropomus undecimalis</i>	Common snook	SSC		
<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>	Eastern indigo snake	T	T	G4S3
<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Little blue heron	SSC		G5S4
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy egret	SSC		G5S4
<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Tricolored heron	SSC		G5S4
<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	White ibis	SSC		G5S4
<i>Falco sparverius paulus</i>	SE American kestrel	T		G5S3
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	SSC		G3S3
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	T	T	G4S3
<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Wood stork	E	E	G4S2
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	SSC		G5S3
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown pelican	SSC		G4S3
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitis</i>	Florida pine snake	SSC		G5S3
<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Black skimmer	SSC		G5S3
<i>Sceloporus woodi</i>	Florida scrub lizard			G3S3
<i>Sciurus niger shermanii</i>	Sherman's fox squirrel	SSC		G5S2
<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	West Indian manatee	E	E	G2S2

<sup>14</sup> Id.

**TABLES 1, 2 AND 3**

**Table 1. Estimated impacts of proposed West Virginia Drive six-lane bridge on Natural Communities of North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve or Buffer Preserve (total area = 318,750 square feet)<sup>12</sup>**

FNAI Community Type	Global & State Ranking	Square Footage Impacted by Proposed Bridge Footprint
Depression marsh	G4, S3	40,000
Mesic flatwoods	G7, S4	15,000
Scrub	G2, S2	71,250
Scrubby flatwoods	G3, S3	22,500
Blackwater stream	G4, S2	3,750
Baygall	G4, S4	11,250
Floodplain marsh	G3, S2	45,000
Hydric hammock	G7, S4	26,250
Tidal swamp	G3, S3	93,750
Open water riverine	Not on FNAI list	30,000

**Table 2. Listed plant and lichen species known to occur within the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve or Buffer Preserve<sup>13</sup>**

Scientific Name	Common Name	FDACS	USFWS	FNAI
<i>Cladonia perforata</i>	Perforated reindeer moss	E	E	G1S1
<i>Conradina grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered false rosemary	T	E	G3S3
<i>Encyclia tampensis</i>	Florida butterfly orchid	C		
<i>Lechea cernua</i>	Nodding pinweed	T		G3S3
<i>Ophioglossum palmatum</i>	Hand fern	E		G4S2
<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Erect prickly pear	T		
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon fern	C		
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal fern	C		
<i>Polygala smallii</i>	Tiny milkwort	E	E	G1S1
<i>Tillandsia fasciculata</i>	Cardinal airplant	E		
<i>Tillandsia flexousa</i>	Twisted airplant	T		G4S3
<i>Tillandsia utriculata</i>	Giant airplant	E		

<sup>12</sup> Report by Jeff Beal, DEP Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Port St. Lucie Field Office (Sept. 2003).  
North Fork St. Lucie State Buffer Preserve Management Plan: 2003-2012 (draft).

SAI - DOT - AN  
2003-6349

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 8/13/2003  
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 9/12/2003  
SAI#: FL200307143088C

MESSAGE:

REFERENCE SAI # FL2000002020057

<b>STATE AGENCIES</b>	<b>WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS</b>	<b>OPB POLICY UNIT</b>	<b>RPCS &amp; LOC GOVS</b>
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	SOUTH FLORIDA WMD	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
A STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

☒ Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).

Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - THIRD EAST-WEST CROSSING OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER, PD&E STUDY - FINANCIAL PROJECT # 410844-1-52-1 - PORT ST. LUCIE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)  
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000  
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161  
FAX: (850) 245-2190

☒ No Comment  
☐ No Comment/Consistent  
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached  
☐ Comment Attached  
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached  
☐ Not Applicable  
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division of Historical Resources  
Bureau of Historic Preservation

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer: S. Edwards

File 8/5/03

Imaiah P. Goble

Date: 8-5-03

Deputy SHPO

CIVIL SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED

8/5/03

03 JUL 15 AM 9:51



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office  
9721 Executive Center Drive North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2432

August 22, 2003

**RECEIVED**  
**AUG 28 2003**  
Wetlands Protection  
EPA Region 4

Mr. Walter England, P.E.  
Project Manager  
City of Port St. Lucie  
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34984

Subject: Third East-West River Crossing  
Financial project ID#: 410844-1-52-1  
St. Lucie County, Florida

Dear Mr. England:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has reviewed the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Advance Notification, dated July 8, 2003, regarding the proposed third East-West River Crossing for the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County, Florida. According to the Advance Notification (AN), the subject improvements are needed to accommodate existing and future travel demands. The Environmental Information section of the AN states the project area supports "mangrove wetlands and estuarine and riverine habitats within the North Fork of the St. Lucie River with scattered palustrine habitat throughout the remainder of the corridor." Also according to the AN, potential impacts to wetlands will be evaluated and assessed and a wetland evaluation report will be prepared. NOAA Fisheries notes that the North Fork of the St. Lucie River is designated by the State of Florida as Outstanding Florida Waters and the project corridor includes wetland habitats of the St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve.

A NOAA Fisheries biologist recently visited the project area; however, access to much of the area was limited. According to the AN, the project area contains estuarine and riverine habitats and mangrove wetlands. Mangroves and estuarine emergent wetlands have been designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). Federally managed species associated with mangrove habitat include postlarval, juvenile, and adult gray, lane and schoolmaster snappers; juvenile Goliath grouper and mutton snapper; and adult white grunt. Detailed information on the snapper/grouper complex (containing ten families and 73 species) and other Federally managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 1998 amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the South Atlantic region prepared by the SAFMC. The 1998 generic amendment was prepared in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). In addition to their designation as EFH, mangroves have been

SEP 03 2003





designated as Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) by the SAFMC. HAPCs are subsets of EFH that are rare, particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation, especially ecologically important, or located in an environmentally stressed area.

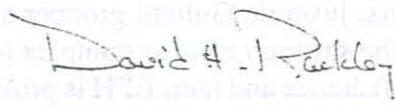
Mangrove systems also provide nursery, foraging, and refuge habitat for other commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish such as blue crab, striped mullet, and tarpon. In addition to their habitat value, mangroves and adjacent wetlands provide important water quality maintenance functions such as pollution uptake (bio-assimilation) and they stabilize shorelines and attenuate wave action. Mangrove wetlands also produce and export detritus (decaying organic material) which is an important component of marine and estuarine food chains. The incremental and cumulative loss of this category of estuarine habitat has reduced overall fisheries production within the St. Lucie River ecosystem.

In connection with our review of this project, NOAA Fisheries will require detailed and specific information concerning the anticipated work and its impacts on living marine resources. Therefore, we recommend that the environmental assessment and/or impact statement for the project include the following information:

1. An EFH Assessment that includes a description of the proposed action; an analysis of anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on EFH, Federally managed species, and associated species by life history state; and the FDOT's views regarding the effects of the proposed project on EFH.
2. A habitat characterization of the wetlands within the project corridor, including the number of wetland acres that would be directly and indirectly impacted by the proposed project.
3. Information on measures to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to wetlands within the project corridor.
4. A mitigation plan to fully compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetland communities that would be degraded or permanently eliminated by the proposed project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Related correspondence should be addressed to the attention of Audra Livergood at our Miami Office. She may be reached at 11420 North Kendall Drive, Suite #103, Miami, Florida 33176, or by telephone at (786) 263-0028.

Sincerely,

  
Frederick C. Sutter III  
Deputy Regional Administrator

cc:

DEP, Tallahassee

EPA, Atlanta

FFWCC, Tallahassee, Attn. Brad Hartman

FWS, Vero Beach, Attn. Brad Rieck

FSER45-Livergood

COUNTY: ST.  
LUCIE

DATE: 7/14/2003

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 8/13/2003

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 9/12/2003

SAI#: FL200307143088C

**MESSAGE:**

REFERENCE SAI # FL200002020057

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	SOUTH FLORIDA WMD	X ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized

as one of the following:

- ☒ Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- ☐ Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- ☐ Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- ☐ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

**Project Description:**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - THIRD EAST-WEST CROSSING OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER, PD&E STUDY - FINANCIAL PROJECT # 410844-1-52-1 - PORT ST. LUCIE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

RECEIVED  
8003 41 787  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND SUPERVISOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT

**To: Florida State Clearinghouse**

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)  
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000  
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161  
FAX: (850) 245-2190

**EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Comment | <input type="checkbox"/> No Comment/Consistent          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comment Attached      | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent/Comments Attached   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable        | <input type="checkbox"/> Inconsistent/Comments Attached |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable                 |

**From:**

Division/Bureau: OPB. Env. Policy  
Reviewer: Dr. Danner  
Date: 7/30/03

RECEIVED  
AUG 01 2003  
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# Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"

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<b>Project Information</b>	
<b>Project:</b>	FL200307143088C
<b>Comments Due:</b>	August 13, 2003
<b>Letter Due:</b>	September 27, 2003
<b>Description:</b>	DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION - THIRD EAST-WEST CROSSING OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER, PD&E STUDY - FINANCIAL PROJECT # 410844-1-52-1 - PORT ST. LUCIE, ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
<b>Keywords:</b>	DOT - 3RD EAST-WEST CROSSING OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER - PORT ST. LUCIE
<b>CFDA #:</b>	20.205
<b>Agency Comments:</b>	
TREASURE COAST RPC - TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
The proposed PD&E study is not in conflict with the Treasure Coast SRPP; however, a new river crossing will have the potential to significantly impact existing residential development, natural systems, and the river. The study should identify alternatives that reduce impacts and provide the full costs and benefits of each.	
ST. LUCIE - ST. LUCIE COUNTY	
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT - OFFICE OF POLICY AND BUDGET, ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
No Comment	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
Released Without Comment	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No final comments received.	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
NO COMMENT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
DEP has major concerns regarding this project that proposes to cross the North Fork St. Lucie River Aquatic Preserve and its Buffer Preserve. Please see the Department's memorandum.	
SOUTH FLORIDA WMD - SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
Consistent/Comments. Letter faxed/mailed 8/14/03.	

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)  
 3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47  
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000  
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161  
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

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